

While in the civilian hospital, I talked to a couple of world-wise, well seasoned, nurses and doctors about VA. Their answers in sum were – if listed on a resume, working there is career suicide except at a clap clinic. The nurses were very frank; the doctors were coy. Doctors are good at vagaries. One had to look through them to read between the lines for same answers given by nurses. Too many who work for VA cannot get anything better? Typical government employment: bureaucrats who cannot get anything better living very well off the people's taxes. Quality recruitment suffers because of that stigma among other reasons. What I did not understand then at the civilian hospital was an '**insistent hint**' made by six people there: "Do you really want to transfer out of here to a VA hospital?" My reply, "I do not have medical insurance; it was this or die; I have no choice. VA is paying the bill and if I do not cooperate it hands me the whole cost of a hospital visit I cannot afford." It is overwhelming how many 'gotchas' that institution uses to not pay its debts and punish Vets for going outside of it! The last thing civilian doctor said to me when leaving there for VA regional Dallas hospital was, 'May heaven help you, my friend...' In hindsight, I know very well of what the civilian hospital staff was warning me! ***All of the aforetyped illustrates how VA self-privatizes; it is not a 'right wing' conspiracy or Donald Trump or Koch brothers or Concerned Vets of America coup at all; simply bureaucratic self-sabotage in toto. Every Vet that defects to private sector fully or in part or those who never enter VA system at all equals privatization.*** White Elephant, Dark Horse pseudo-voucher programs like VetChoice and Mission Acts are smoke screens hiding that, which only adds more money to VA's 400 billion dollar annual budget without any benefit to Veterans. ***Only fifty-cents of every five budget dollars actually goes to us;*** the rest benefits people who never wore a uniform filling pork troughs rewarding VSO's, politicians, bureaucrats, federal unions, and civil service welfare system corruption. An interesting comment triangulated to me through a senior ward staff member while I was hospitalized at Dallas Regional in 2018, "most of the money coming into here never makes it to the veterans..." Very telling, do not you think? ***Think of what 400 billion dollars a year could do in the private sector creating jobs, economic growth, and other benefits to the US Veterans, economy and private healthcare industry that is currently being exhausted on these birds! What a novel idea: return to the economy what was stolen from it to benefit the whole country...Talk about a win/win ROI, 'return of investment,' to the US economy! Even Wall Street would applaud that one!!*** Moreover, charitable organizations and such outside of VA milking Vets as income sources are very faddish and profitable, too. That is another story. ***With so much help, why are Veterans by the hundreds of thousands to millions literally suffering and dying, many in outright protest by suicide, from lack of it?*** Should US Veterans ever get the care we need, aforementioned gravy trains will derail proper. Only American greed could figure out how to profit from our suicidal suffering. In America the noble lies of patriotic loyalty, sacrifice, and martyrdom to those of us serving it are for suckers. A broke Vet is a bum same as any other; patriotism walks and cash talks, which is epitome of fraudulent patriotism and broken promises. Try paying for anything in America with patriotism and the recipient will call a cop and have s/he veteran arrested!